

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the amendments above and the following comments.

Claims 1-7, 9-14, 16-22 and 24-26 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Krishnan et al (US Patent 5,972,088). In response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection. Applicants have amended claim 1, to recite "a non-volatile plasticizer selected from the group consisting of tallate esters." The Examiner had indicated at the top of page 4 of the Office Action that claims 7 (Applicants believe the Examiner meant claim 8,) 15 and 23 were allowable over the prior art because the cited combination of references did not teach ethyl hexyl tallate as a plasticizer. Applicants have attempted to broaden the allowable subject matter by reciting in main claims 1, 10 and 19 that the non-volatile plasticizer is a tallate ester in accordance with page 3, lines 28-30. Applicants do not believe that the cited combination of references teaches any tallate ester plasticizer. Therefore, Applicants submit that all of the claims should now be allowable over the cited prior art.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection. An early notice that this rejection has been reconsidered and withdrawn is earnestly solicited.

Applicants believe the foregoing constitutes a bona fide response to all outstanding objections and rejections.

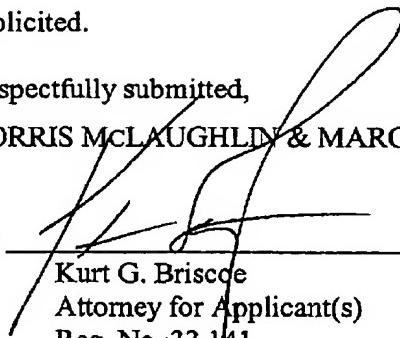
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Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700, so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NORRIS MC LAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By 

Kurt G. Briscoe
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 33,141
875 Third Avenue - 18th Floor
New York, New York 10022
Phone: (212) 808-0700
Fax: (212) 808-0844

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